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RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE  
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TAGS: [AORC](#) [IAEA](#) [IR](#) [KNNP](#) [MNUC](#) [PARM](#) [TRGY](#)

SUBJECT: INDIA,S POSITION ON IRAN REMAINS UNCHANGED

REF: A. (A) SECSTATE 122464

[1](#)B. (B) SECSTATE 123074

Classified By: POLCOUNS Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

[1](#)1. (C) Summary: PolCouns and PolOff delivered on November 24 reftel demarches on Iran to Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary of Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran (PAI) Division, T.C.A. Raghavan, and Deputy Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs, Vipul. The two ministry officials offered few substantive remarks but were consistent in their response that India supports Iran,s right to develop a peaceful nuclear energy program. Joint Secretary Raghavan was unaware of the Iran Conference on Nuclear Power Plants, indicating India is unlikely to send a delegate from Delhi. End Summary.

[1](#)2. (C) Following up on Ref A, which had been originally delivered on October 23 to Deputy Secretary of PAI Division Piyush Srivastava, PolCouns delivered the clear message to Raghavan that India should not attend Iran,s Conference on Nuclear Power Plants hosted by Iran on 30 November. Raghavan replied that as far as he knew, MEA had not received an invitation to said conference and explained that under normal protocol, this sort of invitation would be cleared by his office. He wondered if during his recent absence it had perhaps been delivered to India,s Department of Atomic Energy.

[1](#)3. (C) In response to the request that GOI make strong statements on Iran at the 27-28 November meeting of the IAEA Board of Governor,s meeting, Raghavan stated that &India,s position has not changed: Iran has a right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and it must be consistent with international standards8.

[1](#)4. (C) In a separate meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs Deputy Secretary for Disarmament and International Security Affairs Vipul told PolOff that India,s position on Iran and Syria,s nuclear programs remained unchanged following the November 19 IAEA report (Ref B). Vipul revealed that the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) had discussed the report,s conclusions about Iran in Vienna on November 21 and that it may finalize a joint position at a plenary meeting on November 25. Regarding Syria, Vipul said that he

had not yet received guidance from senior MEA officials, but that the report did not &put blame on anyone& and that Director General El Baradei had labeled the report &inconclusive& about the presence of a nuclear facility at the Al-Kibar site. Comment: Based on Raghavan and Vipul,s responses, and past history, Post does not believe India will make strong statements on either Iran or Syria. End Comment.  
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